Performance of IREL

2345. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the physical performance of the Indian Rare Earth's Limited (IREL) has been showing a declining trend during recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by government in this regard;

(d) the year-wise details of the production of different important minerals during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Details of production of important minerals by the Indian Rare Earths Limited during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in the table below:

TABLE

Important Minerals	Year wise Quantity (Metric Tonnes)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Ilmenite	218245	315000	363850
Zircon	13611	19934	22714
Rutile	8696	13799	15444

From the foregoing figures of production, the continous improvement therein will be obvious.